UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1995/72/Add.1
25 May 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Resumed organizational session for 1995
1 June 1995
Agenda item 3

BASIC PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COUNCIL

Programme budget implications of the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development to establish an open-ended ad hoc intergovernmental panel on forests

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its third session, the Commission on Sustainable Development decided, subject to approval by the Economic and Social Council, to establish an open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, under its aegis, to work in an open, transparent and participatory manner. 1/

2. The programme budget implications of the Commission's decision are contained in the annex below.

Notes

1/ E/1995/32, chap. I, sect. D.5 (to be issued).

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Annex

PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TO ESTABLISH AN OPEN-ENDED AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON FORESTS

1. Following the review of the mandate, modalities and terms of reference of the Panel as outlined in the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its third session a/ and related consultations, it is assumed that the Panel would have one session in 1995, two sessions in 1996 and one session in 1997, each of one week's duration. The substantive support to the Panel would be provided by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development and would be equivalent to 24 Professional and 24 General Service work-months per year (12 Professional and 12 General Service work-months in 1995), to be financed from extrabudgetary resources. The conference-servicing would be provided in all official languages of the United Nations.

2. On the basis of the above assumptions, the costs of the activities would be as follows:

	1995 US $	1996-1997 US $
Travel of members of the Commission to the Panel	132 500	636 000
Substantive support	314 900	682 800
Conference-servicing requirements	320 600	998 700

3. Should the Economic and Social Council adopt the recommendation of the Commission, the costs relating to attendance of the Commission's members to the Panel's session in 1995 ($132,500) would be financed from the 1994-1995 appropriation approved for the Commission's activities. The related costs for 1996-1997 ($636,000) represent additional requirements under section 7A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. This requirement would be dealt with in accordance with the procedure for use and operation of the contingency fund established by the General Assembly in resolution 42/211.

4. The conference-servicing requirements for the meetings ($320,600 for 1995 and $998,700 for 1996-1997) will be dealt with within the overall provisions for conference-servicing of the United Nations meetings and conferences, reserved in the programme budget for those periods respectively. The actual conference-servicing costs of the meetings will be reported to the General Assembly within the context of the budget performance reports.

5. Extrabudgetary funds will be sought to meet the requirements for substantive support and servicing of the Panel by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development ($314,900 in 1995 and $682,800 in 1996-1997).

Notes

a/ See E/1995/32, chap. I, sect. D.5, annex I (to be issued).